

and effectively left in limbo, as Poland initially refused to accept them. The son of two of these expellees, a Polish Jew in France, took revenge: He assassinated a German diplomat in Paris.

Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels subsequently asserted that "World Jewry" was responsible for the assassination and gave the signal for the start of the first large open pogrom in Germany: "The Führer," he stated, "has decided that . . . demonstrations should not be prepared or organized by the Party, but insofar as they erupt spontaneously, they are not to be hampered."

As described by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum:

The rioters destroyed 267 synagogues throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. Many synagogues burned throughout the night, in full view of the public and of local firefighters, who had received orders to intervene only to prevent flames from spreading to nearby buildings. SA and Hitler Youth members across the country shattered the shop windows of an estimated 7,500 Jewish-owned commercial establishments, and looted their wares. Jewish cemeteries became a particular object of desecration in many regions. The pogrom proved especially destructive in Berlin and Vienna, home to the two largest Jewish communities in the German Reich. Mobs of SA men roamed the streets, attacking Jews in their houses and forcing Jews they encountered to perform acts of public humiliation. Although murder did not figure in the central directives, Kristallnacht claimed the lives of at least 91 Jews between the 9th and 10th of November. Police records of the period document a high number of rapes and of suicides in the aftermath of the violence.

Kristallnacht was thus a crucial turning point in the Holocaust—moving from a policy of removing Jews from Germany and German occupied lands, to murdering them. It also stands as an enduring example of the danger of associating citizenship with ethnicity, of tying loyalty to the state with blood identity.

Kristallnacht is but one example of how hate can proliferate and erode our societies and why I have worked tirelessly to advance global efforts to ensure atrocities such as this never happen again. In my capacity as a chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and decades-long work as a Member of Congress, I have advanced efforts to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance and discrimination in North America and Europe.

This work has ranged from commission hearings to raise awareness of the continuing scourge of anti-Semitism to leading interparliamentary efforts to create personal representatives or high-level officials within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to combat Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. Sadly, the election of anti-Semitic political parties in Europe coupled with efforts to adopt circumcision, ritual slaughter, and other laws in Europe that would alter Jewish life and continuing incidents of anti-Semitic violence let us

know that the work to eradicate anti-Semitism is not yet complete.

As we honor the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, I ask that you join me in honoring the victims and families of that horrible tragedy and join me in fighting hate and bias in all its forms.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, due to unexpected family commitments, I was unable to cast a vote relative to rollcall vote No. 204 on the nomination of Todd Hughes to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on his nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WESTPORT ALL-STARS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the Westport Little League team who made it all the way to the national Little League World Series finals earlier this year. The 11 phenomenal student players from Westport, CT comprised the first team from Connecticut to reach the final rounds of the Little League World Series since 1989.

The Westport Little League team came to the Little League World Series as New England champions and played against the reigning Northwest team from Washington State to make it to the finals. In this thrilling qualifier, Westport rallied from behind, winning 14 to 13 in the seventh inning with a single to left field. This game was the fourth time in Little League World Series history where both teams completed 27 runs and the third time in history to score a collective 30 hits.

Although these students from Westport did not win in the next few championship games, they never gave up. Even in their fight for third place against a team from Tijuana, Mexico, they played their hardest to the very end. Player Chad Knight hit two home runs and drove in seven more, making a Little League Series world record of nine runs.

After their great success, Connecticut welcomed them home with a parade through the streets of Westport and an afternoon at the Governor's mansion. The Westport Little League team was invited as a special guest of the Yankees and hosted by the Red Sox at Fenway Park.

I also wish to congratulate Tim Rogers, manager and head coach of the team, assistant coaches Brett Reiner and Tom Whelan, and the parents and loved ones of these inspiring young players. I am incredibly proud of their success, representing Connecticut as role models for student athletes around the country. They worked together as a team to reach the ultimate honor in youth baseball.●

EASTLAKE ALL-STARS

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to congratulate the 2013 Eastlake Little League All-Star team from Chula Vista, CA on capturing the U.S. Championship at the 67th Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. The determination, sportsmanship, and love of the game exhibited by these young athletes inspired people in Chula Vista and throughout California.

Since its establishment almost 75 years ago, Little League Baseball has grown from just three teams to become the world's largest youth sports program. This year's Little League World Series featured 8 regional champions from the United States and 8 international teams, representing the millions of children in 79 countries on 6 continents who take part in the great American pastime.

The Eastlake Little League All-Stars traveled a long road to Williamsport. In order to qualify for the Little League World Series, these extraordinary young players had to first defeat worthy opponents at the District 42 Championship in South Bay, the Section 7 Championship in Spring Valley, the Sub-Division III Championship in Corona, and the Division III Championship in Long Beach, before securing the West Region Championship in San Bernardino with a 3-to-1 tournament record.

Representing the West at the World Series, the Eastlake All-Stars showcased their talents with several impressive feats of athleticism. In a tense game against the Great Lakes All-Stars, Eastlake's Grant Holman became the first pitcher since 1979 to throw an extra-inning no-hitter at the Little League World Series. Later, Eastlake routed the New England All-Stars 12-to-1 to take the U.S. Championship. Reaching the World Series Championship game, Eastlake fought valiantly to take the lead before falling 6-to-4 to the talented team from Tokyo, Japan.

In Chula Vista, the Eastlake All-Stars received a hero's welcome at a community homecoming celebrating the new U.S. World Series Champions. In the spirit of international goodwill and sportsmanship that characterizes the Little League World Series, the Eastlake players were joined in Chula Vista by the neighboring team from the Municipal de Tijuana Little League of Tijuana, Mexico, who placed third in the World Series.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all the members of the Eastlake Little League All-Star team on their extraordinary achievement: Micah Pietila-Wiggs, Ricky Tibbett, Rennard Williams, Dominic Haley, Patrick Archer, Kevin Bateman II, Jake Espinoza, Giancarlo Cortez, Grant Holman, Charly Peterson, Michael Gaines, and Nick Mora, along with the dedicated coaches, parents, and volunteers who contributed to their success.●